

CLAIMS

1. Peptide composition characterized in that it comprises a polyprotein NS3/NS4 of the hepatitis C virus, as well as a polypeptide NS5b of the hepatitis C virus.
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2. Peptide composition according to claim 1, characterized in that NS3 and/or NS4 and/or NS5b originate from viruses of different genotypes.
3. Peptide composition according to claim 1, characterized in that NS3, NS4 and NS5b originate from a virus of the same genotype, preferably genotype 1b.
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4. Expression vector characterized in that it comprises a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b, as well as the means necessary to their expression.
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5. Expression vector according to claim 4, characterized in that the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from viruses of different genotypes.
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6. Expression vector according to claim 4, characterized in that the nucleotide sequences code for a polyprotein and a polypeptide originating from a virus of the same genotype, preferably the genotype 1b.
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7. Expression vector according to any one of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that this vector is an adenovirus.
8. Expression vector according to claim 7, characterized in that the genome of the adenovirus is modified so as to replace the EI region by the expression cassette CMV-NS3-NS4 and to replace the E3 region by the expression cassette SV40- NS5b.
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9. Expression vector according to any one of claims 4 to 6, characterized in that this vector is a poxvirus.

10. Expression vector according to claim 9, characterized in that the
5 genome of the poxvirus is modified so as to insert the expression cassette ph5r-NS3-NS4 and to insert the expression cassette p7.5- NS5b.

11. Microorganism or host cell transformed by an expression vector as defined in any one of claims 4 to 10.

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12. Use of a peptide composition as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, or of an expression vector as defined in any one of claims 4 to 10, or of an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide
15 sequence coding for the polypeptide NS5b, or nucleotide sequences coding for said polyprotein NS3/NS4 and said polypeptide NS5b, said nucleotide sequences corresponding to the sequences contained in the expression vectors as defined in any one of claims 4 to 10, placed under the control of elements necessary to an expression constitutive of and/or inducible from said
20 peptides, for the preparation of a medicament intended for the inhibition, prevention or control of an infection caused by the hepatitis C virus in an animal, preferably human.

13. Pharmaceutical composition, in particular vaccine, comprising as
25 active ingredient the peptide composition as defined in claims 1 to 3, or an expression vector as defined in any one of claims 4 to 10, or an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polypeptide.

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14. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, characterized in that it also comprises a pharmaceutically appropriate vehicle.

15. Pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal, characterized in that it comprises at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide NS5b.

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16. Pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal, characterized in that it comprises at least one expression vector as defined in claim 7 or 8 and at least one expression vector as defined in claim 9 or 10.

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17. Pharmaceutical kit, in particular vaccinal, comprising at least one expression vector as defined in any one of claims 4 to 10, or at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 with an expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the Polypeptide NS5b, and

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(i) at least one peptide composition as defined in claims 1 to 3 or
(ii) at least one nucleotide sequence coding for the polyprotein NS3/NS4 and for the polypeptide NS5b.